

# Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

## Volunteer Newsletter



### What's New?

Our summer SCA interns are here! SCA intern **Noah Thomas** is a soon-to-be graduate from Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment. Noah is working with Wildlife Biologist Howard on the Cinnamon Teal banding project and will spend most of his time outside this summer. Eventually he would like to end up back in Virginia working for State Fish and Game. Another SCA intern who will be spending plenty of time outside this summer is **Evan Mitchell**. Evan is from Tennessee and attends college at Hendrix College in Arkansas. He will be leading our Youth Conservation Corps Crew this summer and has a background in wetland monitoring and creation. **Andrea is back!** She was here last summer and is continuing the Pathways program to be here again. She will also be working with the YCC crew this summer, and will go back to CA State University in the fall to finish her Anthropology degree with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Environmental Resources.



**The YCC crew has arrived!** They will be here Monday-Friday until August 8<sup>th</sup>. Between removing invasive weeds, working on the bunkhouse and assisting Greg on boundary postings, this ten-person crew will have a very busy summer!



### Thumbs-Up!

With the help of social media expert and Refuge volunteer Jennifer Bunker, Bear River Refuge completed a 6-month Twitter campaign from December to May. During that time our Twitter account gained more than 2,000 followers. Between Twitter and Facebook the Refuge has generated more than 20 million impressions since January 1, 2014! Our tweets are consistently some of the most viewed in all the federal government. A huge **THANK YOU** to Jennifer Bunker.

### Refuge Roundup

Eggs are hatching all over the Refuge! Going out on the Auto Tour Loop, things may seem strangely calm, but there are plenty of birds out there.

Many are likely sitting on nests, out of view, but many nests are also very visible. American avocets, Franklin's gulls, Snowy plovers, Black-necked stilts, White-faced ibis, and of course Cliff swallows are starting to expand their families and take on parental responsibilities. Please drive carefully on the Refuge and stay on the middle of the road on the Tour Loop. Nests in the road will likely be along the sides or in the middle, where the ground is less hard-packed. Shorebirds, especially chicks, will not move very quickly to avoid cars. That being said, come to the Refuge and get your fill of undeniable cuteness!



## Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

### ❖ **May 24 – August 30: Guided Refuge Tours**

We have already started our guided Refuge tours on Saturdays, and they have been a big hit! People have come far and wide to see the Refuge in all its glory this summer, with the help of our excited and knowledgeable crew of volunteers. Steve and Louise Brown, Frank and Josée Kee, Ted and Carolyn McGrath, Brian Ferguson, Les Talbot, Allen Christensen, Jeremy Freshwater, Mindy Nicholas, and coordinator Paul Lombardi will be taking turns guiding tours. If anyone would like to sign up for a tour, please call Charlotte in advance to reserve your spot (435-734-6457).

### ❖ **June 25 – July 23: Pilot Summer Wetland Wings**

This summer, Caitlin will be planning and teaching two Wetland Wings Preschool Programs as a trial for potential future summer programs. Preschool teachers have voiced their excitement, and have been requesting summer programming for a while. Caitlin will be teaching about butterflies on June 25<sup>th</sup> and salamanders on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- ❖ **June 18: Going away party for Charlotte and volunteer recognition (12pm, WEC)**
- ❖ **June 21: Refuge Tour**
- ❖ **June 23-26: Project Leader's Meeting**
- ❖ **June 25: Wetland Wings – Butterflies**
- ❖ **June 28: Refuge Tour**
- ❖ **July 4<sup>th</sup>: Happy Independence Day!! (we are closed)**
- ❖ **July 5, 12: Refuge Tour**

### **AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE**

Tracy has added some fun new items to the Bookstore! JR Ranger badges are now on sale for \$2.00, so after completed JR Ranger activities are checked, guide the JR Rangers over to the Bookstore for their badges. Bug kits are also now on sale! Check out the cool new Ant, Butterfly, and Praying Mantis Kits.

